

# CSW Alert!

## ALL ARE CALLED • KANSAS CITY Sunday, June 24, 2016

### Actions of Immediate Witness

#### **Debate and Vote on Three Proposed Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs) – General Session VIII – 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

In the Sunday afternoon General Session, you'll have the opportunity to debate and vote on each of the three proposed AIWs added to the agenda on Saturday. All three may be adopted if each receives the required two-thirds vote.

The text of the draft AIWs is attached to this CSW Alert, with the unincorporated amendments listed and lettered in order of priority according to the level of support generated in the mini-assemblies around these amendments. The three revised AIWs are:

- AIW-A: End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE
- AIW-C: End Prisons for Profit: Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons
- AIW-F: We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

#### **Congregational Study/Action Issues**

Engage in study and action related to the Corruption of Our Democracy and Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy.

### **Actions of Immediate Witness**

Use adopted AIWs to advocate in your congregations and districts. While Actions of Immediate Witness carry the authority only of the General Assembly at which they are adopted, AIWs reflect considerable thought, collaboration, and commitment.

**The social witness process is our communal process.  
Implementation of our adopted statements is everyone's responsibility.  
Joint the CSW list serve by going to [www.uua.org/lists](http://www.uua.org/lists).**

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*In the proposed AIWs that follow, text in [ ] is to be deleted and underlined text is to be added.*

#### Proposed 2018 Action of Immediate Witness A:

- 1 **End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE**
- 2
- 3 BECAUSE of UU Principles 1, 2, 6, and 7 and the 2013 Statement of Conscience entitled
- 4 Immigration as a Moral Issue; and
- 5 WHEREAS, white supremacy and colonization permeate societal systems;
- 6 WHEREAS, zero-tolerance policy forces family separation;

7 WHEREAS, asylum seekers are detained, criminalized, and dehumanized;

8 WHEREAS, established asylum protections have been dismantled;

9 WHEREAS, current immigration policy fails to honor our treaties/conventions/protocols, and  
10 established immigration law;

11 WHEREAS, the U.S. has withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council;

12 WHEREAS, white supremacy criminalizes black and brown bodies and the exercise of their  
13 rights;

14 WHEREAS, children are torn from their families at borders, conflict zones, and occupied  
15 territories around the globe;

16 WHEREAS, children are abused and drugged in detention and shelters;

17 WHEREAS, incarceration and separation causes trauma; and

18 WHEREAS, this is an urgent and emerging crisis that calls UUs to act now. The Trump  
19 Administration has instituted a zero-tolerance practice of unilaterally detaining and separating  
20 family members of asylum seekers and other immigrants. They subsequently issued an  
21 Executive Order (EO) that purportedly ends the practice while denying responsibility for creating  
22 the crisis in the first place. The EO does not address or require the reunification of children  
23 already separated from their families. Additionally, there is no guarantee of the immediate or  
24 future safety and appropriate treatment of asylum seekers. The administration has requested  
25 the court revise the 1997 ruling that prevents detention of children from more than 20 days.  
26 They are expressly asking to detain children with their families for the duration of their legal  
27 proceedings. ICE has a history of terrorizing and abusing immigrants and operating outside the  
28 law. As the agency carrying out the administration's barbaric policies, it must be dismantled so  
29 humane and appropriate processes and agencies can be created.

30

31 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UUA, member congregations should use their  
32 moral authority to demand the immediate:

- 33 • Reunification of children taken from their families seeking asylum in the US;
- 34 • End [of this administration's] the policy of incarcerating asylum seekers, including those  
35 in family detention;
- 36 • Investigation and cessation of the inappropriate administration of psychiatric drugs to  
37 children in detention and shelters;
- 38 • Investigation and prosecution of claims of sexual and physical abuse of children in  
39 detention and shelters;
- 40 • Abolition of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the implementation of a  
41 system that understands the causes for migration, provides a non-carceral solution while  
42 asylum seekers await a decision on their case, and has a fundamental commitment to  
43 keeping families together; and
- 44 • Removal of immigration oversight from the Department of Homeland Security.

45

46

- 47 NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 57<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
48 UUA CALLS ON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS TO:
- 49 • Participate in the June 30<sup>th</sup> nationwide Mass Mobilization;
  - 50 • Participate in the July 2<sup>nd</sup> events at border areas;
  - 51 • Host interfaith vigils to lift our prophetic voices;
  - 52 • Carry out strategic direct action in collaboration with, and/or at the direction of, immigrant-led  
53 groups;
  - 54 • Advocate for comprehensive, humane immigration reform;
  - 55 • Advocate the US ratification of the UN convention of the rights of the child;
  - 56 • Boycott and divest from corporations that provide services and products to global agencies  
57 involved in family separation and detention;
  - 58 • Support UU and partner organizations and the immigrant coalition groups to whom they are  
59 accountable, with donations and volunteering including: UU Refugee and Immigrant  
60 Services and Education (UURISE), Mijente, Freedom for Immigrants, Mano Amiga San  
61 Marcos, ACLU, Association of Immigration Lawyers, UU State Action Networks,  
62 congregations working for immigration justice; and
  - 63 • Build accountable relationships with immigrant-led groups, supporting what they request.  
64 [Show up how they request], without usurping leadership.

#### **UNINCORPORATED AMENDMENTS – Proposed AIW A**

A: Line 1: Delete “and Abolish ICE” [Significantly alters the AIW]

B: Line 28 – 29: Delete “As the agency carrying out the administration’s barbaric policies, it must be dismantled so humane and appropriate processes and agencies can be created.” [Significantly alters the AIW; consider with Amendment A]

C: Line 40: Delete “Abolition of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the” [Significantly alters the AIW; consider with Amendment A]

D: After Line 13 add: “WHEREAS, US gives military aid to other countries which detain children under abusive conditions” [Significantly alters the AIW]

E: Line 60 & 61: Delete “Mijente, Freedom for Immigrants, Mano Amigo San Marcos” [removes significant information]

F: After Line 57: add a dot “Contact your Representative and Senator and ask them what their position on immigration reform is. Also why aren’t they supporting voting on the current compromise bills? Without Congress actually doing something this will just continue.” [already addressed under advocacy]

G: Line 1: Replace “and” with commas [does not contribute to clarity]

H: Line 28: change “barbaric” to “draconian” [does not contribute to clarity]

I: Line 51: Delete “prophetic” [shifts the theological grounding]

1 **Proposed 2018 Action of Immediate Witness C:**  
2 **[End Prisons for Profit:] Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and End**  
3 **Prisons for Profit**  
4

5 BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists recognize the humanity, worth, and dignity of all people within  
6 and outside of our membership;  
7

8 BECAUSE [Universalism rejected the Calvinist doctrine that some are damned and some are  
9 saved, and] UUs are called to uphold that everyone is worthy [now] of love and justice;  
10

11 WHEREAS, prisons for profit encourages longer terms of imprisonment, and maximizes profit  
12 by minimizing services and rehabilitation;  
13

14 WHEREAS, the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC), under the influence of private prison  
15 companies that supply goods and services to prisons for profit, is a system of oppression that  
16 perpetuates and further criminalizes poverty;  
17

18 WHEREAS, the PIC is an entrenched system of white supremacy where guilt and innocence  
19 are [determined] influenced by skin color and economic privilege, regardless of behavior;  
20

21 WHEREAS, the federal prison system, thirty-five state prisons, and Immigration and Customs  
22 Enforcement (ICE) charge for necessary medical care using private, for-profit medical  
23 companies [like Corizon Health];  
24

25 WHEREAS The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) membership includes 870 incarcerated  
26 people, many of whom have medical expenses but no resources to pay for care. Medical  
27 treatment must be paid before necessities such as soap, shampoo, stamps, and over-the-  
28 counter medicines can be acquired;  
29

30 WHEREAS Incarcerated CLF members include 200 people living in Texas and Georgia prisons  
31 who receive no wages, but are still charged for medical care, leaving some unable to access  
32 adequate treatment. This perpetuates illness, debility, insurmountable debt, and chronic  
33 poverty. People in prisons are dying every day due to prohibitive medical cost;  
34

35 WHEREAS US Supreme Court ruled in Estelle v. Gamble in 1976 that ignoring a prisoner's  
36 serious medical needs amounts to cruel and unusual punishment; and  
37

38 WHEREAS The Federal Bureau of Prisons is violating Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard  
39 Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) that clearly states, "The  
40 provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners . . . should have access  
41 to necessary health-care services free of charge . . .";  
42

43 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist  
44 Association denounces the predatory practice of charging medical fees to people in prison and  
45 commits to the following actions:  
46

- 47 1. Contact Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner urging him to sign HB 5104, which is currently on his  
48 desk. This bill would end medical fees for people incarcerated [living] in Illinois [prisons].
- 49 2. Contact Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and state legislators to  
50 demand an end to fee-for-service medical care in their states.

- 51 3. Publicly oppose the practices of Corizon Health, which profits from privatized health care  
52 in Kansas, Missouri, and in twenty other states, as well as Wexford Health, MHM  
53 Services, Inc. and other companies that supply health care for local, state, and federal  
54 prisons and ICE detention facilities.  
55 4. Insist the United Nations World Health Organization press the US to uphold [Nelson  
56 Mandela's Standard Minimum Rules] Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard Minimum  
57 Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.  
58 5. Ensure that in your state the medical treatment of prisoners conforms with Estelle vs.  
59 Gamble.

60 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
61 ENCOURAGES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS TO:

- 62 1. Get more deeply involved in direct service prison ministry through such actions as  
63 beginning or joining local prison ministry efforts within your congregation or community  
64 organization; networking with others engaged in prison ministry; leading worship or small  
65 group ministry within prisons; [by] becoming a pen pal, and welcoming post-incarcerated  
66 persons into your congregation [to Unitarian Universalists and others living in prison].  
67 2. Continue to educate ourselves [about the PIC and] on the adverse impacts of prison  
68 privatization and the many injustices in the PIC such as a) grossly disproportionate  
69 impact on marginalized groups, b) solitary confinement practices, c) prison-based  
70 gerrymandering, d) voter disenfranchisement and, e) employment discrimination.

#### **UNINCORPORATED AMENDMENTS – Proposed AIW C**

A: After Line 70: Add “3. Advocate for ending for-profit prisons.” [substantive change]

B. Line 51: Delete “Publicly oppose” and add “contact governors, state representatives, etc...  
demanding termination of...” [unnecessary detail]

C. Line 54: Add “and publicly encourage others to do the same.” [vague]

D. Line 42: Add “Whereas this General Assembly is focused on the immediate issue of predatory  
medical care, we are also aware that abolishing for profit prisons and outside vendors may be the  
ultimate solution.” [incorrect premise; substantive change]

E. After Line 66: Add “Initiate an investigation of the prison industrial complex. The  
investigation shall consist of but not be limited to a) the auditing of contractors, b) the campaign  
contributions to politicians, c) the charges to prisoner, the mark up or profit, d) the adequacy of  
health care, e) an answer to the question, what if they go bankrupt?” [beyond congregational  
capacity]

F. Line 49: Change to “Contact all governors to demand an end to fee-for-service medical care in  
their states, particularly in states where this practice currently exists, such as in Texas and  
Georgia.” [not applicable to all states]

1 **Proposed 2016 Action of Immediate Witness F:**  
2 **We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors**  
3

4 We, the 57th General Assembly of the UUA, which is meeting in Kansas City on the banks of  
5 the Missouri River, call for ongoing solidarity with Indigenous Water Protectors because:  
6

7 Indigenous peoples of this continent lived by traditions that maintained ecological balance for  
8 thousands of years before colonization.  
9

10 Colonization is an oppressive system that values resource extraction over life itself and is  
11 directly linked to genocide of Indigenous peoples. This colonization involves sequestering  
12 Indigenous peoples on reservations, flooding Indigenous lands, incarcerating disproportionate  
13 numbers of Indigenous peoples, and other forms of oppression.  
14

15 Lakota/Dakota/Nakota (Sioux) peoples rose up in prayerful action to oppose construction of the  
16 Dakota Access Pipeline on Great Sioux Nation Treaty Land and to protect the Missouri River,  
17 which is the water source for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and  
18 millions downstream.  
19

20 People from more than 300 Indigenous nations responded to the call at Standing Rock, as did  
21 allies of many colors, which created an intercultural community of transformation and prayerful  
22 resistance lasting for four seasons.  
23

24 Unprecedented numbers of Unitarian Universalists, Indigenous and otherwise, were propelled  
25 by our values to respond to this call for solidarity and were generally welcomed as relatives.  
26

27 Unitarian Universalists play a unique role among faith communities, forming strong bonds as  
28 relatives with Indigenous Water Protectors, in North Dakota's atmosphere of antagonism.  
29

30 Seven Indigenous Water Protectors face federal charges in Bismarck-Mandan. [where more  
31 than 85% of the local jury pool believes Water Protectors are guilty before trial] A National Jury  
32 Project randomized survey concluded that 77% of the jury-eligible population in Morton County  
33 and 85% in Burleigh County have already decided the Water Protectors are guilty, yet requests  
34 to change trial venues have been denied.  
35

36 Efforts to colonize Indigenous peoples are now resulting in federal prison sentences for Water  
37 Protectors, interrupting familial and communal bonds, as well as traditional spiritual practices  
38 and ways of life.  
39

40 As Unitarian Universalists:

- 41 1. We express our gratitude to Standing Rock, Sacred Stone Camp, Oceti Sakowin Camp,  
42 Sicangu Rosebud Camp, and associated camps for welcoming us as relatives and affirming  
43 that all people belong to the human family.
- 44 2. We affirm solidarity with Water Protectors, including defendants, inmates, and their loved  
45 ones.
- 46 3. We pledge our direct and tangible support for local Indigenous movements that seek to  
47 protect the environment and restore traditional Indigenous ways of life.
- 48 4. As people, congregations, and a wider association, we commit to extend relationships of  
49 solidarity with Water Protectors, leveraging our spiritual, financial, human, and infrastructural  
50 resources in support of Water Protectors, especially those who face ongoing charges and  
51 prison sentences, and their loved ones.

- 52 5. We ask the UUA to supply materials and guidance to help implement this Action of  
53 Immediate Witness.

**UNINCORPORATED AMENDMENT -- Proposed AIW F**

A. Line 53: Add “such as curriculum development, educational materials, and support for networking among UUs to work in solidarity with Water Protectors.”

[Asks for something that might require UUA resources.]